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A LEARNED BISHOP.

The Career of Bishop R. S. Williams.

The Early Training and Rise to Eminence, of R. S. Rev. Robert S. Williams, Sixth Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church—His Early Struggles for an Education and His Remarkable Power as a Church Builder.

There is presented to our readers with this week's issue an illuminated supplement, containing a striking likeness of Right Rev. Robert S. Williams, D. D., Bishop of the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church. Bishop Williams is one of the strong men of our race. His life reads like a romance, touched by a master hand, and tinged by the brightest fancy of a vivid imagination.

He was born in 1858, in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and he laid the foundation of his career by the early discipline derived from the somewhat meagre facilities of the neighboring schools. Yet his quick perception and natural aptitude surmounted all the difficulties and his extraordinary power of assimilation soon made him ready for the higher superstructure of learning, which with his subsequent theological training rounded out his education for his career.

The Bishop was always a thorough man and a conscientious one. His ambition to live a higher life led him to take full courses at Wiley University, Marshall, Texas, and at Howard University in this city, at a cost of severe deprivation and self denial, but with brilliant results. He joined church in 1876, at the age of eighteen and five years later entered the ministry of the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church, satisfied that that was his life work and the vocation in which he could render most efficient service to his fellow men.

At this time the Colored Methodist church had been an independent religious organization for little more than ten years. It had been set apart in 1870, with the aid and sympathy of the Methodist Episcopal Church South to which it had previously been tributary and had by no means acquired its present vigor. Rev. Mr. Williams, equipped with his enthusiasm and scholarship, was a valuable acquisition to its ministry, the ruling forces being quick to appreciate the fact and in spite of his youth, he received charge of the church's work at Longview, Texas. Here his energy made itself felt in almost immediate results. Not only did he do pastoral work, at Longview, but found time to contribute valuable and thoughtful editorial assistance to "The Christian Worker," which was being published in the interest of denominational work in Texas. While there also he first acquired fame as a pulpit orator and electrified his audience by the power of his logic and the beauty of his diction.

In 1884 he had become so widely known that he was called to a higher field of usefulness. Transferred that year to the Virginia Conference, he was stationed at the Israel Metropolitan church, in this city. At the time Israel church was not an attractive assignment. Both financially and spiritually the church was in a sad state, but Rev. Williams, who had then become an elder in the ministry, never faltered and never gave up hope. His rare good sense, his effective power of harmonizing discordant

more happy church family. The memory of his pastoral care at Israel church is indeed a fragrant one among its people.

It is a very beautiful thought that all good deeds, like the quality of mercy, are twice blessed. They bless him who takes and him who gives and so this career of elder Williams, ever helpful, ever upward and ever dominated by the altruism of a noble life had its broadening and beneficial effect upon his own capacity for the Master's work. Like exercise to the

THE WIZARD DINED.

Gothams Business Men Honor Dr. Washington.

Lawyer Hayes makes a telling speech before a New York audience.—The Symphony Concert at Carnegie Hall.—Doings in the West and Memphis.

It is gratifying to note the appreciation with which the work of Dr. Booker T. Washington is received among his own people, and the movement among the leading colored citizens of Greater New York to express this appreciation in a monster reception to be held at Carnegie Hall, on April 15th, meets with general approval. It is doubtful if there has ever been a more flattering testimonial tendered anyone than this reception promises to be. Among the Committee on Arrangement are, Messrs. F. R. Moore, B. F. Hawley, C. H. Lansing, Jerome B. Peterson, J. B. Nail, P. S. Ball, Jas. R. Braxton, W. A. Heyliger, D. Macon Webster, Hons. Wilford H. Smith, C. W. Anderson, S. R. Scottron, Prof. Bulkley, Revs. W. H. Brooks, H. C. Bishop, C. T. Walker, and others.

At St. Mark's M. E. Church on Sunday morning, the beautiful weather brought out a large and appreciative audience, who listened to a sermon by the Rev. Charles L. Brown. His text was, "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth tidings, that publisheth peace and salvation." In the evening the pulpit was occupied by Rev. J. Scarborough, who delivered a well prepared sermon. Next Sunday being Easter, there will be a choral service at 10:45.

The symphony concert at Carnegie Hall on Thursday evening the 2nd, conducted under the auspices of Mount Tabor Manual Training and Industrial School, of which the Rev. H. G. Miller is superintendent, was a success from a literary stand point. Unfortunately the audience did not nearly fill the large hall, as had been expected. The Symphony Concert Club of Lincoln University, supported by a chorus of one hundred children, won well merited applause. The program rendered was as follows: "Freedom, God and Right," Barnby; selection, "Broadway Echoes," Sadaler; children's chorus, selected; an Oriental rondo, "Halimar," Banta, Quartette, (a) "Old Mother Hubbard," (b) "The Chinaman and the Rats," selections, (a) "Song to the Evening Star," Wagner; (b) "Thy Sentinel Am I," Watson; J. W. Haywood, soloist; recitation, "Echoes From Folk Lore," J. G. James; piano solo, (a) "Fond Memories," J. W. Lillard, (b) "The Mountain Stream," Sidney Smith, J. W. Lillard; march, "Blaze Away," Holzman. Children's chorus, selected; selection, "Blooming

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elements, his blameless life, his pure ideals, his unceasing activity, his winning address, soon found their reward in a quickening of the church's spiritual life and in a more healthy treasury. The debts were reduced, the church remodeled, the interest and the willing hands of the young people were enlisted in the church's activities and peace and prosperity like a benison descended upon this once

sinews and muscles of the athlete, each achievement was but the impetus to larger endeavor and when the chances and changes of a clergyman's life brought him to the unpromising field at Sydney Park church, Columbia, South Carolina, he found another task fit for a Hercules and went at it without a murmur, but with a grim

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